

Florida Flyer

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Courtesy of Airport Manatee

Airline Transport Pilot trio at Airport Manatee. From left to right: Bill Ellis (Delta, retired) and his Carbon Cub, Jerry MacKinnon (United), and Jim Kelly (United).

Airport Manatee

by Thomas Reeder

Airport Manatee (48X) is conveniently located on the Gulf Coast near Tampa Bay and Port Manatee, 10 miles north of Palmetto, Florida, on U.S. 41 in Manatee County. Airport Manatee is 5 miles from the I-275 interchange, 27 miles from St. Petersburg, 15 miles from Bradenton, 30 miles from Sarasota, and 36 miles from Tampa.

Licensed in 1977

Airport Manatee was licensed by Reeder Farms in 1977 and began operating in 1978. The airport is located in a part of Manatee County that still

maintains to this day some of its rural character even though it is conveniently located near major transportation arteries, both land and sea, and is experiencing development and growth as a result. In December 1978, a *Bradenton Herald* article described the airport as a “quiet, tranquil field for weekend and casual aviators,” a character which it retains to this day.

Under the direction of J.T. Reeder, Graham Reeder, and Marvis Snell, two brothers and a sister, and with the help of brother-in-law Randolph Snell, Airport

See Airport Manatee, page 4

MANAGER'S CORNER



Aaron N. Smith
State Aviation Manager

“I would like to thank the Florida Airports Council, Florida airport staff, members of the working group, and especially Aviation and Spaceports Office and FDOT General Council staff for their hard work and support of the bill to amend Chapter 333, F.S.”

As many of you know, the Florida Legislative Special Session began June 1 and ran through June 20, with the focus being on the budget. As for the update and amendments to Chapter 333, Florida Statutes (F.S.), “Airport Zoning”, that will have to wait until the 2016 Legislative Session, which comes early next year, commencing January 12.

I would like to thank the Florida Airports Council, Florida airport staff, members of the working group, and especially Aviation and Spaceports Office and FDOT General Council staff for their hard work and support of the bill to amend Chapter 333, F.S. We were well on our way to see all that hard work come to fruition. That said, we are in great shape for the 2016 Legislative Session, when we’ll give it another go.

Welcome Lisa Waters, FAC President. I would like to extend a warm welcome to Lisa Waters, the new Florida Airports Council President/Chief Executive Officer. I have been working with Lisa on and off for well more than a decade now, starting in 1998 when I began my career with FDOT. It’s a small world and even smaller in aviation. We wish her and FAC great success as they move forward.

FTP, SIS, and FASP updates. As many of you may already be aware, the Florida Transportation Plan (FTP) and Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) Plan are being updated simultaneously. In addition, the Florida Aviation System Plan (FASP) will also go through the update process over the next year or so. I know Andy Keith, Aviation Development Administrator, and Jim Halley, Aviation System Manager, will provide regular briefings during each Continuing Florida Aviation System Planning Process (CFASPP) round on the progress of the FTP and SIS updates, and CFASPP members will be heavily engaged with the FASP update. It’s going to be a busy year!

Spaceports. Now on to a topic few State Aviation Directors have privilege to include in their newsletter—spaceports. As many of you know, for the past several years the department has been working diligently with Space Florida making strategic improvements to Florida’s spaceport infrastructure. Recently, Space Florida launched (pun blatantly intentional) a new space tourism campaign called “WeAre-GoFL.” I encourage you to review the new website and watch the video. If you watch Discovery Channel, you may recognize the narrator’s voice. See www.wearegoff.com and www.wearegoff.com/#watch-video.

Recognition. I want to take this opportunity to recognize our Aviation Operations team. From inspecting airports (rain or shine), to working weekends making sure amendments to Chapter 333, F.S., were workable, or managing and coordinating with hundreds of private registered airports and heliports throughout the state, or updating the Florida Aeronautical Chart and Airport Directory, coordinating our involvement at Sun ’n Fun, or managing our emergency management responsibilities, in addition to handling various projects and assignments from yours truly, they are an outstanding team. These five very capable and driven individuals have accomplished so much, and they continue to make a real difference in Florida aviation. Thank you David Roberts, Aviation Operations Administrator; Fred Karuga, Aviation Communications Manager; Jason Myers, Airport Inspection and Safety Manager; Alice Lammert, Private Airport and Finance Manager; and Greg Jones, Airspace and Land Use Manager, for a job well done! Your hard work and dedication to the people of Florida and the system of Florida airports is recognized and appreciated.

State Contract Provides Resources for Florida Airports

An effective, efficient resource for airfield painting, markings cleaning, and rubber removal



Above and left: Before and after photos of algae removal and runway cleaning performed by Hi-Lite Airfield Services at Hernando County Airport.

Photographs courtesy of Hi-Lite Airfield Services, LLC

As the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) strives to develop and improve the intermodal system throughout Florida, the FDOT Aviation and Spaceports Office continues to support the ongoing statewide Aviation System Plan for Florida's airports. One of the most successful means of supporting the state's vast aviation community is through the implementation of a Statewide Airfield Maintenance Contract.

Airports continuously face the everyday challenge of successfully operating both public and private air transport while maintaining necessary compliance and safety standards. Even more challenging is the task of effectively doing so within fiscal budget constraints. In an effort to support these ongoing challenges, the FDOT Aviation and Spaceports Office designed and implemented the Statewide Airfield Maintenance Contract to provide Florida airports a viable resource for maintaining airfield compliance, budgets, and safety.

Hi-Lite Airfield Services

FDOT contracted through public procurement with Hi-Lite Airfield

Services, LLC, of St. Augustine as the contractor for the three-year state program. Approximately 100 participating airports throughout the state are eligible to execute a variety of airfield maintenance services offered on the contract. Many of the services include airfield painting, markings cleaning, and rubber removal, which airports may directly purchase without the administrative time and money requirements involved with traditional procurement procedures.

Brad Dunn is the Program Manager for Hi-Lite and is responsible for working closely with the airports as well as FDOT for the program's implementation. "The Department's Central Office did a great job of designing a contract that can be useful to airports of all sizes throughout the state. Our goal is to not just wait for the call when something is deficient or there is an immediate need, but to be proactively involved with airport personnel in determining their needs," said Brad Dunn. "By effectively doing so, we can use the state contract to efficiently manage airside budgets, projects, and ultimately safety which is everyone's top priority."

Remediating problems

A developing issue among airports around the state has been the contamination of airfield markings. Elements such as mold, mildew, and rust are prevalent in Florida's environment and cause airfield markings to become dirty and less visible to aircraft pilots. The result is non-compliance with state and federal regulations and must be immediately corrected. The state contract has become an effective and efficient resource for remediation of such problems. Brad Dunn added that "Services such as runway markings cleaning and painting have been very useful in helping with compliance deficiencies due to contamination. We can restore adequate visibility and reflectivity by proper cleaning, but the contract also provides the use of paint additives that help prevent future rust and mildew contamination which is an excellent way of implementing proactive maintenance."

Contact Brad Dunn

As airports continue to assess airfield conditions, maintenance and purchasing offices are encouraged to utilize the Statewide Airfield Maintenance Contract as a means of maintaining compliance and safety in their planning procedures. For additional information or pricing, please contact Brad Dunn at (352) 601-8709 or brad@hi-lite.com. ♦

Airport Manatee

From page 1

Manatee grew from 6 hangars and 16 tie downs to the current 22 enclosed hangars and 55 open hangars, serving single-engine aircraft.

The partners' vision for Airport Manatee was to complement the natural advantages that Manatee County has in this part of the county: efficient transportation by sea and road, and room for growth. It is a worthy vision of sea, road, and air, which is easily demonstrated by going to Google Earth and entering Airport Manatee's airport identifier (48X) and zooming out!



The Airport Manatee community's annual potluck dinner: great people, great food!

Situated on 22 acres

Airport Manatee is situated on 22 acres of land proper, in a parcel of 345 acres total. The airport has one turf runway, 07/25, which measures 3,120 feet by 100 feet with runway lighting, one nested T-hangar, one metal shed for open hangars, and pull-through open hangars. The FBO on the field is AvianVerto, LLC, whose contact number is (941) 722-9296. There are 60 to 70 aircraft on the field.

As a point of departure or destination, the airport provides a variety of views: green countryside and farms, beaches and coastlines, nearby Port Manatee, and the spectacular Sunshine Skyway Bridge located on the beautiful Tampa Bay!

Economic impact

The airport's economic impact includes aviation fuel sales, aircraft repairs, flight instruction, aircraft rentals, hangar rentals and tie downs, as well as the property taxes and sales taxes these activities generate. Aircraft owners and transient aircraft also utilize various local businesses and restaurants.

Recent improvements to maintain the existing facility include painting, re-roofing hangars, asphalt overlays, fuel



Photographs courtesy of Airport Manatee

We constructed a new flight deck in 2012.

farm refurbishment, and the provision of a pilot's lounge.

In the fall and spring, Airport Manatee hosts Experimental Aircraft Association Chapter 180's fly-in and cookout. In February, we have a local potluck/fly-in event, and in May, a breakfast fly-in that is catered. SocialFlight.com is a great site for recreational pilots to

monitor for upcoming events—local, statewide, and national.

Mission and goals

The mission of Airport Manatee, as stated in the airport's newsletter is: "To promote general aviation and support the flying community. Working together, we can continue the tradition of



Airport Manatee's Bill Burton (left), Certified Flight Instructor, with student Leo Blaisdell, and Bill's Aeronica Champ.



Aerial view by Beth Leidenheimer.



Fill 'er up, please!



Bonanza headed out, owned by Kyle Owens.

Photographs courtesy of Airport Manatee

general aviation here at Airport Manatee by an active interest in flying, maintaining aircraft, and staying current in piloting skills and flight-plan procedures. As always, safety, first of all."

The mission of Airport Manatee is also stated in the name of the FBO, AvianVerto, LLC, which is Latin for, "bird made to fly" or, in other words, "keep 'em flying!"

The airport's goals are to strive to serve the general aviation community

with excellence; to appreciate the community of pilots; to appreciate the spirit of human endeavor demonstrated by each person who learns to fly an aircraft and experiences the wonder of flight; and to promote respect for the privilege that is flight.

These goals are informed by the recognition that when one human being takes flight, that one flies for all, even though many, personally, have no desire to fly. This is also expressed in

the airport's first newsletter, the *Airport Manatee Journal*:

Higher Flight

Where in the human heart springs forth the ancient dream to fly?

The achievement of flight is a dream come true for humankind and a witness to the mystery of humankind's place in the cosmos.

Thanks to all the great aviation folks who make Airport Manatee what it is! They are special. ♦

Airport Manager Thomas Reeder can be reached at (941) 722-9296. For more information about Airport Manatee, see the airport's website at www.airportmanatee.org.

Welcome Brad Swanson, New Administrator



*Brad Swanson
State Freight, Logistics and Passenger
Operations Administrator*

Brad Swanson was recently appointed as the State Freight, Logistics and Passenger Operations Administrator with the Florida Department of Transportation. He brings more than 12 years of experience with Florida's multimodal programs, most recently with the Florida Chamber of Commerce as the Vice President of Strategic Partnerships.

Brad Swanson has extensive experience working with Senate and House leadership on key legislative initiatives. He has led advocacy efforts for Enterprise Florida incentives and has worked in support of the Strategic Intermodal Systems program. He has worked with executives and organizations across all modes to promote efficiencies in trade infrastructure, helping Florida's competitiveness on the global market. Swanson is a graduate of the University of South Florida.

As the State Freight, Logistics and Passenger Operations Administrator, Swanson is responsible for managing and directing the transportation modal programs including Seaport and Waterways, Rail and Motor Carrier, Transit, Aviation and Spaceports, and Freight. We welcome Brad Swanson to his new role with the Florida Department of Transportation. ♦

Fire Extinguishers

by Jason Myers

In this edition of the *Florida Flyer*, we will continue our discussion on airport safety and other important aspects of Florida's airport licensing program. Airport safety is one of the primary focuses during our inspection and a key component of our mission of making Florida airports the best they can be. The minimum standard that we will discuss in this issue is ensuring each public-use aviation facility has at least two fire extinguishers located on the airfield, if Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) is not present.

No matter the time of day or weather present, a pilot must have the capability to take action in case of a fire. The required fire extinguishers must be at least category 80-B-C, or higher, and shall be located in an area clearly identified to the public. They must also be readily accessible, operationally functional, and bear an unbroken seal. Please note this requirement only states for Class B

and C fire extinguishers to be used due to the negative effects other classes of extinguishers may have on aircraft.

If you would like to know more concerning the state requirements for airport safety at your facility, please refer to Chapter 14-60, Florida Administrative Code (FAC), and as always, if corrective measures are undertaken, please ensure they comply. Chapter 14-60, FAC, is available on the Florida Aviation website at www.dot.state.fl.us/aviation/safeinsp.shtm.

Please feel free to contact me if you require further assistance with this matter or have questions concerning Florida's airport licensure program. ♦

Jason Myers is the Airport Inspection and Safety Manager for the FDOT Aviation and Spaceports Office. Contact him at Jason.Myers@dot.state.fl.us or (850) 414-4515.

FDOT Guidebook for Airport Master Planning

by Todd Cox

The Florida Department of Transportation has commenced an update to the *2010 FDOT Guidebook for Airport Master Planning*. The guidebook, which provides standards for the development of master plans statewide, is being updated due to changes in various federal and state regulatory guidance along with the desire to make the guidebook much more user-friendly for those who may be involved with airport master planning such as airports, local governments, consultants, and the FDOT districts. An additional goal of the update is to improve the guidebook's overall function and usability, to bring consistency and flexibility to the master planning process, and to foster improvements in coordinating and streamlining FDOT and FAA review processes and timelines.

An integral part of the project is the establishment of a working group of airport stakeholders as coordinated through the Continuing Florida Aviation System Planning Process Chairs. These individuals, representing a cross section of airports in Florida, will meet periodically over the coming year to assist in the update which is scheduled for completion in May 2016.

The current guidebook is available online at www.dot.state.fl.us/aviation/flpub.shtm (under "Planning" choose "Guidebook for Airport Master Planning"). For more information, please contact me by phone or email. ♦

Todd Cox is the Aviation Program Development Manager for the FDOT Aviation and Spaceports Office. Contact him at Todd.Cox@dot.state.fl.us or (850) 414-4510.

Lisa Waters, New FAC President/CEO

Lisa Waters is the new President/Chief Executive Officer of the Florida Airports Council. She is responsible for the administration of the Florida Airports Council (FAC), including developing programs and policies, overseeing FAC's financial activities, and overseeing the FAC Education Foundation.

"It will be an honor to serve an organization that has had such a positive impact on my own professional and career development," says Waters. "I look forward to working with the membership to meet the challenges of the next decade and more."

Since beginning her career in 1985, Lisa Waters has gained extensive experience in administering and conducting Florida aviation programs and in developing and administering public policy related to airports and airport operations.

Waters was an Associate Partner and Senior Aviation Planner with Hanson Professional Services, Inc.; she was President, Co-Owner, and Senior Aviation Planner with the MEA Group, Inc.; and she served as the Director of Noise Abatement and Technical Services with



Lisa Waters
President/Chief Executive Officer
Florida Airports Council

the Palm Beach County Department of Airports for 10 years.

Lisa Waters holds a bachelor's degree in Aviation Management and an associate's degree in Air Commerce/Flight Technology from the Florida Institute of Technology (FIT). She is an instrument trained commercial pilot. Waters is married to Ed Waters, whom she met during orientation week at FIT in 1980; she has two daughters, Valerie, 25, and Rebecca, 22. ♦

Florida Transportation Plan Regional Workshops

At the December 2014 Transportation Summit and the Regional Forums held earlier this year, we heard from citizens about long-term transportation needs in Florida. Now, more ideas are needed on state, regional, and local transportation policy that will support these long-term needs.

Please take advantage of the opportunity to share your thoughts about Florida's transportation system. Join our conversations on the following dates:

Monday, June 22, 2015

Lake City, FDOT District Two Office

Tuesday, June 23, 2015

Ft. Myers, Lee Tran

Wednesday, June 24, 2015

Ft. Lauderdale, FDOT District Four Office

Thursday, June 25, 2015

The Villages Sumter County Service Center, Wildwood

For more information and to register, see www.FloridaTransportationPlan.com. ♦

Calendar

Please contact event organizers before attending in case of cancellation due to weather or other factors.

July 25, 2015

CFASPP Statewide Steering Committee Meeting, Boca Raton Resort and Club, 1:00 p.m. For more information, see www.cfaspp.com.

July 26–29, 2015

FAC's 46th Annual Conference and Exposition in Boca Raton. For more information, see www.floridaairports.org or call the Florida Airports Council at (850) 224-2964.

October 28–30, 2015

2015 FAC Specialty Conference, Lake Buena Vista. For more information, see www.floridaairports.org or call the Florida Airports Council at (850) 224-2964.

September 11–13, 2015

2015 Festival of Flight, Tampa North Aero Park (X39). For more information, see www.festivalofflightwesleychapel.com or contact Angela Brammer at (813) 973-3703 or tpanorth@tampabay.rr.com.

November 7, 2015

Seaplane Festival and Parade, Winter Haven Municipal Airport (GIF). For more information, see www.airport.mywinterhaven.com, or contact airport administration at (863) 298-4551 or ltreggi@mywinterhaven.com.

For information about CFASPP, see www.cfaspp.com.

FASP Update

by Jim Halley

Presently, the Florida Aviation System Plan (FASP) is undergoing a comprehensive strategic plan update which will focus on updating goals and objectives from the previous plan. The FASP update is anticipated to be completed by the end of 2016.

The purpose of the FASP is to analyze the system of airports collectively in order to understand the relationships of these facilities and surrounding demographics in comparison to the needs of the users of the system. This understanding allows for the identification of development requirements necessary to meet future demand, maintain and enhance the aviation system, and also to ensure that the aviation demands of the state of Florida are adequately served by its airports currently and well into the future.

Two phases

This update to the FASP will be accomplished in two phases and will

involve extensive stakeholder outreach. One of the major stakeholder input methods will be through the Continuing Florida Aviation System Planning Process (CFASPP). Members of CFASPP's nine regions will constitute the Comprehensive Review Team (CRT) which will meet in person twice throughout the FASP update to validate goals and objectives, review and analyze trends and concerns, and help guide the update. Additionally, CFASPP committees will be continuously briefed on FASP efforts and asked to review and comment on the update as it progresses.

Developed in 2005

In 2005, the Florida Department of Transportation developed the FASP in cooperation with the Federal Aviation Administration and Florida's public airports through the Continuing Florida Aviation System Planning Process. The system plan incorporates the traditional aviation system planning elements provided for in most state aviation system plans. However, in the spirit of both the Federal Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21) and State Intermodal mandates, the FASP 2025—

last updated in 2010—includes an analysis of the intermodal aspects of the state transportation system and a strategic planning element which identifies seven strategic goals and the approaches, measurements, and recommendations to achieve these goals. This update to the FASP also included the development of a statewide aviation database called the Florida Aviation Database (FAD).

The 2010 update also provided an analysis of both the economic impact of airports on local communities and the economic impact of airport projects on local economies. In the FASP 2025 Planning Component, the update included nine regional aviation system plans or regional perspectives, a statewide overview, an executive summary, and a Florida Aviation System Plan 2025 document which includes a strategic planning element. The FASP 2025 documents can be accessed through the FDOT Aviation and Spaceports Office website at www.dot.state.fl.us/aviation/FASP_details.shtm. ♦

Jim Halley is Aviation System Manager for the FDOT Aviation and Spaceports Office. He can be reached at (850) 414-4505 or Jim.Halley@dot.state.fl.us.

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